

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /089 W
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P R 291545Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4426

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, SP

SUBJ: ANTI-SPANISH VIOLENCE; NEW DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 5713 DTG 291146Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING SACKING OF SPANISH MISSION IN LISBON NIGHT
OF SEPT 26-27, SPANISH STAFF EXCEPT FOR CHARGE WAS CALLED BACK
TO SPAIN. SPANISH CONSULATES OUTSIDE OF LISBON WERE ATTACKED
SEPT 27 AND 28. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELEASED COMMUNIQUE
SEPT 27 DETAILING MELO ANTUNES' EFFORTS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND
DEPLORING ATTACK ON MISSION. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RELEASED
COMMUNIQUE SAME DAY SUPPORTING ANTUNES.
LISBON PRESS PUTTING OPTIMISTIC GLOSS ON CURRENT STATE OF
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PORTUGUESE-SPANISH RELATIONS AND SPECULATING THAT SPANISH REACTION

TO INCIDENTS WILL BE MODERATE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING DESTRUCTION OF SPANISH MISSION IN LISBON, SPANISH AMBASSADOR CALLED BACK TO SPAIN EVENING OF SEPT 27. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY BULK OF MISSION STAFF AND DEPENDENTS. CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES AND SEVENTEEN ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL REMAINED BEHIND.

2. SPANISH CONSULATES OUTSIDE LISBON WERE ALSO ATTACKED OVER WEEKEND IN PROTEST AGAINST CONDEMNATION OF SPANISH TERRORISTS. CONSULATE IN EVORA AND VICE-CONSULATE IN SETUBAL SACKED SEPT 27. CONSULATE GENERAL IN OPORTO DESTROYED SEPT 28.

3. PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESPONDED TO ANTI-SPANISH VIOLENCE IN SEPT 27 COMMUNIQUE. MINISTRY CLAIMED IT HAD FORESEEN VIOLENCE AND THAT MELO ANTUNES HAD REQUESTED ASSURANCES FROM COPCON, PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE, AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO THAT ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR MISSION WOULD BE PROVIDED. DURING DEMONSTRATION ANTUNES REPEATEDLY ASKED MAXIMUM EFFORTS BY SECURITY FORCES AND FIREMEN TO MINIMIZE DAMAGES. COMMUNIQUE RECALLED THAT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPLAINED SENSITIVITY OF EXECUTION ISSUE IN PORTUGAL TO SPANISH IN SEPTEMBER 1 NOTE AND THAT ON THAT OCCASION, AND AGAIN ON SEPT 26, GOP HAD FORMALLY REQUESTED PARDON OF TERRORISTS. MINISTRY REGRETTED THAT LEGITIMATE ACT OF PUBLIC PROTEST HAD SERVED AS PRETEXT FOR VIOLENCE AND LED TO "ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION" FOR PORTUGUESE SPANISH RELATIONS.

4. FOLLOWING MEETING SAME DAY WITH ANTUNES, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED OWN COMMUNIQUE. EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FONMIN'S EFFORTS, COUNCIL CONDEMNED VIOLENCE BUT STATED THAT "IRRESPONSIBLE POLITICAL GROUPINGS, ALONG WITH REFUGEES OF DUBIOUS ORIGIN ILLEGALLY PRESENT IN PORTUGAL," SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCIDENTS. GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT, DESPITE SERIOUSNESS OF EVENTS, THEY WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT PORTUGUESE-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP. IT ANNOUNCED DECISIONS TO: (A) ORDER ENQUIRY INTO EVENTS SO AS TO DETERMINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OCCURENCE;
(B) TAKE MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS IN PORTUGAL;
(C) ASSURES PANISH GOVERNMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO INDEMNIFY SPAIN
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FOR LOSSES: (D) GURANTEE THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS WILL NOT OCCUR; AND (E) EXPRESS, ON PART OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, REGRET OVER EXECUTIONS.

5. LISBON PRESS IS PUTTING BEST POSSIBLE GLOSS ON STATE OF PORTUGUESE-SPANISH RELATIONS FOLLOWING INCIDENTS. IN ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL SPANISH STATEMENT ON INCIDENTS, PRESS SPECULATING THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE

HAVE MOLLIFIED SPANISH AND THAT THEIR REACTION TO VIOLENCE WILL
BE MODERATE SO AS NOT TO DESTROY FRAGILE STATUS QUO
WHICH HAS EXISTED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO STATES SINCE APRIL
1974.
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